

P Hofstat
WAS FINE

8/23/67

Oh, Harold, you and I have no argument, because I desperately WANT Garrison to succeed. My extreme questioning of his relationships is based on my fear of general failure, for him and for us all. Certainly I agree with the political picture as you paint it. In fact, that is why I wrote as I did about Shriver and LBJ, etc. I try so hard to understand human nature and to allow for the difficulties in political life.

I can't believe I didn't write you about Aynesworth-Robertson-Reiland, etc. I am more scatter-brained than I realized! At any rate, here it is for what it is worth. (I sent it to Sylvia, but she has been too busy to comment lately. Her book will be out soon, as you know, and there is so much she has to do, as well as hold down a full time job.) To be brief:

Aynesworth told me (witnessed) that he heard the information on Tippit while he (Aynesworth) was at the book building; he heard the news over a police radio. Quickly he surmized that the death (murder) of the policeman was related to the murder of the President. (Aynesworth is always building himself way up there!) Consequently he asked a policeman in a squad car (who was going to Oak Cliff) if he (Aynesworth) could ride with him to the scene of the crime. (I think we have a statement by a policeman to back this; at any rate, I will make a notation of this at the end of the letter.) ** see next page*

Aynesworth and the cop rode DIRECTLY to Tenth Street and Patton, according to Aynesworth's statement to me (July 1964), WITHOUT STOPPING ANYWHERE ENROUTE.

(in our conversation)

It was then that Aynesworth made the remark ~~to~~: I was standing at the scene (Tippit scene) "...~~not~~ at 1:05, not later than 1:10pm." (It was this, plus other items on Aynesworth that I sent to Garrison, without receiving a reply.)

Now if you will look at the testimony of *V. Robertson* (WFAA employee, along with Reiland. WFAA is an affiliate of the Dallas Morning News. It was WFAA, if I recall correctly, that gave Molina the adverse publicity which allegedly resulted in his --Molina's-- dismissal from the TSBDB.) Robertson claims that he and Aynesworth (and Reiland) were at the TSBDB when the news on Tippit's death came through. (I am doing this from memory. Please check before accepting.) The three immediately got into a car and drove to Tenth Street, STOPPING ENROUTE AT THE FUNERAL HOME where the rumor of the jacket (in connection with the alleged cop-killer) was rampant.

See how these stories differ. In addition, neither Aynesworth nor Reiland were called by the Commission. I see this failure at the Dallas FBI level. As was the case with Jackson (in my opinion), the Dallas police did NOT want Aynesworth to testify. Consequently Aynesworth did not. Yet when I talked to A. in July '64, he was expecting a call to the Commission any day. After all, he said to me, I was the "only newsman in America to be at all ~~fun~~ big scenes." And I think as I mentioned in one other letter, it IS strange that a newsman such as Thayer ^{Waldo}, for example, who was only in on one big scene (Oswald's murder) should be chosen to appear before the Commission over and above such a peripetetic character as Hugh Aynesworth.

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I will look now for the statement by the policeman which corroborates Aynesworth's statement to me, in my opinion. At any rate, I think there is a conflict of testimony here. Either Aynesworth lied to me (why? and what about the statement by the cop?) or Robertson perjured himself for A. By the way, I am enclosing a letter I wrote to Pierce Allman and answered by him in brief fashion. Return it when you can. Notice that he still insists in this note that Jackson was on the knoll. Yet Jackson insisted UNDER OATH that he (Jackson) never lifted a leg out of the car, but ~~never~~ traveled directly under the underpass after the shots were fired without once leaving the car. So it goes. Why should Jackson lie? Or did Allman lie? Allman and Jackson are old Dallas hands; they KNOW one another. This was no case of mistaken identity, such as is conceivable (but not likely) in the Seth Kantor-Mrs. Tice confrontation. Why, then? My only guess is that Jackson who allegedly saw a rifle out of the sixth floor window of the builing, could not bear to have to explain why in hell he ran to the knoll like every other tourista in the vicinity. Well.

Harold, I must close. Mike is coming for a visit. I have to clean the house. We are going to talk out the Tippit shooting until it comes out our ears. Such conversations can't help but be rewarding. I will keep you informed on what he has to say and what he thinks of my Jackson and Robertson challenges. He (Mike) also wants to go to Dallas, but I don't think I can get away, as school is starting. At any rate, I will let you know.

Will be glad when you have had a talk with Sylvia. I think these face-to-face talks help. It is true that Sylvia and I are rather dubious about Garrison at the moment, but we will be the first to cheer if things start breaking for him. I am with you in regard to the persecution of him (Garrison) by the government. This is indeed significant of something. Harold, what do you have on the general condition of Kennedy's health? I have felt for a long time that the people who had him killed were convinced that his actual, natural death was only a matter of months away.

Looks as though the Congress is going to have one little fling at opposing LBJ before the lights go out. Will they succeed? I doubt it. If anything, they (the Congress members) will accelerate the madness. But it is a good fight, and I have such dear, sweet companions. I love you both.
S.

Testimony 2

C. T. Walker, Vol 7, 35-36

Walker corroborates Aynesworth statement to me.
A. told me police car was parked in front of TSBDB.

Notice Walker's statement to question: "What did you park your car?"

Walker: "Right in front of the building." (P.35)
(own)

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Walker; "I heard that an officer had been killed in Oak Cliff... A newsman ran up to the window (of Walker's car) & said, 'Can I ride with you?' I let him get in the car & I went to Oak Cliff & Tenth St., & drove by the scene."

A. told me this story exactly in July '64.

Yet, according to R. H. T. T. A. rode with him to Oak Cliff, stopping first at funeral home. A. told me he went directly to the

Tygart scene with Spicer.

Why all this conflict?